Supply of gas from Iran

*18. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to India the Iranian President has made an offer of supply of gas to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the proposed supply line for the transfer of gas will pass through Pakistan;

(d) if so, what arrangements are proposed to be put in place to cover the security risk involved in a pipeline through Pakistan;

(e) whether the proposed offer also includes a new global corporate ownership of the pipeline; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) During the recent visit of President of Iran to India a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between India and Iran for mutual cooperation in hydrocarbon sector including natural gas and LNG. As regards, import of natural gas from Iran, under bilateral cooperation, Indo-Iran Joint Committee constituted a Joint Technical Sub-Committee to assist it to explore all the options to import natural gas from Iran. The Joint Committee has decided to undertake an offshore feasibility study for laying of pipeline from Iran to India outside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Pakistan. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) from India and National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC) from Iran have been nominated as nodal agencies for the pipeline project by the respective Governments. Accordingly, GAIL and NIGEC have jointly commissioned an offshore pipeline feasibility study for the pipeline from Iran to India. Decision to take up the project would depend on technical feasibility and economic viability of the project.

(c) to (f) No decision to import natural gas by on-land pipeline through Pakistan has been taken.